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EXCISE

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Update on Executions in China

August 15, 1989

Attached is an apparently well-sourced Hong Kong newspaper report which states that to date 28 people have been executed in Beijing for violent crimes related to the June 3-4 attempt by the People's Liberation Army to enter Beijing and put an end to unrest. According to the report, none of those executed was a student or intellectual. In addition, according to the newspaper article, two young men died while in police custody, and many have been beaten.

This report tracks fairly well with publicly available information. According to our records, at least 12 executions in Beijing related to the June 3-4 riots have been announced. Three people were also executed on June 2 for a bank robbery committed during mass demonstrations in May. The South China Morning Post (SCMP) article says the 28 executions were conducted in four groups of seven; Beijing media on June 22 announced the execution of seven men, although other announcements contained fewer names. To date, we have heard no reports of students or intellectuals being sentenced to jail or executed.

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